River Subarnarekha

The pollution in the river Subarnarekha is particularly in the stretch from Ranchi to Ghatshila in Bihar. The Central Pollution Control Board classified the Orissa stretch of Subarnarekha river as Class 'D', i.e. the water fit for wild life preservation and fisheries. The water quality measurements taken at three locations in Orissa i.e. Rajghat, Asti and Rasalpur indicate that the river is meeting the designated best use criteria for the stretch in Orissa and thus the river is not polluted in that segment.

(c) and (d) Measures are taken to check indsutrial pollution through regulation by the State Pollution Control Boards. The rivers Brahmani and Subarnarekha have been included under the National River Conservation Plan. Under this Plan, a sum of Rs. 9.62 crores has been provided for pollution abatement works in the towns of Talcher, Chandbali and Dharmshala (Orissa State) on the Brahmani river and a sum of Rs. 30.64 crores in the towns of Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Ghatshilla (Bihar State) on the Subarnarekha river.

The pollution abatement works include: Interception and diversion of sewage outfalls, treatment and disposal of wastewater, construction of low cost community toilet complexes, improved wood crematoria and river front development works etc.

Threat to Rhinos in Kaziranga National Park

484. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr one-horned Rhinos in Kaziranga National Park are facing serious threat due to killing by poachers;

(b) what is the estimated number of such Rhinos in the Natioal Park;

(c) what is the numbr of killings reported during the last three years, yearwise; and

(d) what measures are contemplated to conserve and increase the number of this rare specie?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Poaching of Rhino is one of the major threats to its population in Kaziranga National Park.

(b) The estimated number of Rhinos in Kaziranga Natoinal Park is 1164 (1993 Census).

(c) The reported killings of Rhinos during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Number of Rhinos killed
1996	26
1997	12
1998	8

(d) Preventive measure are taken against poaching by arranging regular and intensive patrolling by the forest staff. help of Home guards is also being taken for protection. Highlands have been constructed to provide shelter to marooned animals during floods. Flood restoration works are also being undertaken.

Wild Life related Crimes in Delhi

485. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi tops in wildlife crimes over other metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) whether staff strength and resource position of Delhi's Wild Life Department is highly inadequate;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve effectiveness of the Department in curbing the wild life crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) The number of wildlife offences detected in Delhi is more than in other Metropolitan cities in the country. This is due to greater awareness and higher rate of detection besides the quantum of wildlife crimes.

(b) and (c) The infrastructure available to the Wildlife Department of Delhi is not up to the required extent due to lack of appropriate funds.

(d) The following steps have been taken to improve the effectiveness of the Department:

1. The wildlife staff is being equipped with arms and ammunition and they are being provided communication facilities life wireless etc.
2. A scheme for giving awards to the informer is under consideration.
3. Raids are being carr. d out by the wildlife staff whenever information of illegal trade in wild animal and their products reaches them.

Construction of Boat-Culb at Sukia, Darjeeling

486. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council has undertaken the work to construct a board club at Sukia, Darjeeling;

(b) whether Government are aware that animals and other rare species are available in this forest only;

(c) whether the D.G.H.C. obtained necessary clearance from Government; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take to save the rare species of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Ministry has not received any such proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and neither the State Government has informed this Ministry of any kind of violation of Forest (Conservation) Act.

(d) Management and protection of forest areas is within the purview of State Government. However, the State Government has been instructed to take all necessary measures to save the rare species of flora and fauna.

दुर्लभ वन्य जीवों का संरक्षण

487. श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक:
प्रो० रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या दुर्लभ वन्य जीवों के संरक्षण के लिए कोई परियोजना केन्द्र सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है तथा उक्त परियोजना के क्रियान्वयन की समयावधि क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी): (क) और (ख) केन्द्रीय और राज्य सरकारों की मौजूदा योजनाओं के फ्रेमवर्क के भीतर ही दुर्लभ वन्य प्राणियों के संरक्षण हेतु समर्थन प्रदान किया जाता है। समय-समय पर जब कभी आवश्यकता महसूस की जाती है दुर्लभ वन्य प्राणियों के संरक्षण हेतु अलग प्रस्तावों पर विचार किया जाता है।